

## **VIKAS RATHEE**

**South and Central Asian Studies (including Historical Studies)  
Central University of Punjab (City Campus),  
Mansa Road, Bathinda (Punjab), INDIA 151001  
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[vikas.rathee@cup.edu.in](mailto:vikas.rathee@cup.edu.in)**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Nov 2016 – now** Assistant Professor of History, South and Central Asian Studies (including Historical Studies), School of Global Relations, Central University of Punjab

**Oct 2014-Sept 2016** PBC Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Project: “Religion, Politics and Community During Aurangzeb's Reign, 1658-1707.”

**March 2005-March 2006** Guest Lecturer, Dept of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of Delhi

**Aug 2001 – Jun 2002** Manager (Logistics) & Tour Guide, Aquaterra Adventures (Pvt.) Ltd, Delhi for operations in the North Indian Himalayas in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh provinces.

### **EDUCATION**

**Jan 2007-Aug 2015** Department of History, The University of Arizona

**Ph.D. in History (Middle Eastern Caucasus)**, for the thesis “*Narratives of the 1658 War of Succession for the Mughal Throne, 1658-1707*,”. Committee: Richard Eaton (Chair), Linda Darling, Allison Busch (Columbia University) and Brian Silverstein (Anthropology). **Minor: World & Comparative History.**

**2002-2006** Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India

- **M.Phil.** in History (CGPA: 7.69 on a scale of 9.0, first division)
- Unpublished M.Phil. Dissertation: “*Centre and the Region: Aspects of the Making of Mughal Rule in the Bengal Subah, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries*” (Advisor: Prof. Rajat Datta)
- **M.A.** in History (specialisation - Medieval Indian History, CGPA: 6.56 on a scale of 9.0, First Division), Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences

**1998-2002** St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India

**B.A. (Hons.) in History** (Minor fields: English, Philosophy and Political Science), 56.3 %, High Second Division.

**UGC-NET** passed UGC Ref. No. 1546/(NET-JUNE, 2005), Roll No. R172240, Certificate No. A035935

### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

**Hindi – Standard, Khari Boli, Haryanvi, other Hindi-Urdu dialects:** Fluent (speaking, writing and reading);

**Urdu:** Fluent (speaking, writing and reading)

**Literary Persian:** Proficient to fluent depending on text and script/font type (reading);

**Pre-colonial Hindi & Urdu – Braj, Dingal, Pingal, Dakhani, Awadhi and others:** Proficient to fluent depending on text (reading)

**Punjabi:** Advanced (speaking); Fluent (reading, only Shahmukhi script);

**Sanskrit:** five years in High School from Grade 6 through 10

**English:** Fluent (speaking, writing and reading);

**Arabic:** Introductory

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS**

### **EXTERNAL**

- Avinder S. Brar Initiative Award, Avinder S. Brar Foundation & St. Stephen's College, Delhi (INDIA), 2001 for documenting my own bicycle trip from Ludhiana (Punjab Plains) to Rohtang Pass (3980m).

### **INTERNAL**

- Research Seed Money (RSM) Grant from Central University of Punjab, 2017 (Rupees 1.5 lakh)
- SBSRI Dissertation Writing Grant, University of Arizona, 2014.
- Travel Grant, Dept of History, University of Arizona, 2014.
- Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Students Council, University of Arizona, 2013.
- Edwin Turville Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of History, **University of Arizona**, 2013.
- Michael Sweetow Fellowship, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2013.
- John Rockfellow Summer Research Scholarship, University of Arizona, 2011.
- Richard A. Cosgrove Summer Research Scholarship, University of Arizona, 2011 & 2008.
- Summer Research Grant, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona, 2011.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **PEER-REVIEWED**

“Cosmopolitan Particularism: Mahamati Pran-nath’s *dawa* in the *Laldas Bitak*,” in *Purushartha*, 33 (2015), 185-206. ISBN 978-2-7132-2492-8

### **REVIEWS and ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

- Review of Rajeev Kinra, *Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Indo-Persian State Secretary*, Delhi: Primus Books, 2016, for *Economic & Political Weekly* (forthcoming).
- Review of Christian Lee Novetzke, *The Quotidian Revolution: Vernacularization, Religion and the Premodern Public Sphere in India*, Ranikhet: Permanent Black (in association with Ashoka University), 2016, for *The Book Review* (forthcoming).
- Review of Audrey Truschke, *Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth*, Delhi: Penguin Random House India, 2017, for *The Book Review*, vol. XLI, no.7, pp.5-6.
- Review of Lloyd I. & Susanne Hoeber Rudolph, *Romanticism’s Child: An Intellectual History of James Tod’s Influence on Indian History and Historiography*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. Xx+236 for *The Book Review*, vol. XLI, no.6, 2017, pp.15-16.
- “Bakhtawar Khan” for *Encyclopedia of Islam 3*, edited by Kate Fleet et al. Leiden: 2015, 26-29. [978-90-04-28212-4](https://doi.org/10.1017/9789004282124).

- Review of Ayesha Irani, *Sacred Biography, Translation and Conversion: The “Nabivamsa” of Saiyid Sultan and the Making of Bengali Islam, 1600-present*,” dissertation submitted to University of Pennsylvania, 2011 for **Dissertation Reviews** (<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6450>)

### POPULAR MEDIA

- “The BJP’s denial of refugee status to Rohingyas is in line with the (flawed) logic of Partition.” *Scroll*. October 20, 2017 (<https://scroll.in/article/853050/the-bjps-denial-of-refugee-status-to-rohingyas-is-in-line-with-the-flawed-logic-of-partition> accessed October 20, 2017). (on role of Partition of 1947 in determining refugee policies of South Asian nation-states)
- “The Tyrant Diaries, Part II,” *Outlook India* (*web*). April 16, 2013 (<http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?284959> accessed April 16, 2013). (on late-eighteenth century Deccan)
- “A Slanging Match,” *Outlook India* (*web*). February 28, 2014 (<http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?289712> accessed April 5, 2014). (on Wendy Doniger controversy).

### ADVISING and TEACHING

**Ph.D. Advisor** (all at Centre for South and Central Asian Studies (including Historical Studies), Central University of Punjab)

Gopale, Amarnath Machhindranath, since December 2016 (tentatively working on 'Developmental Response to Left Wing Extremism in Gadchiroli Distt'; synopsis yet to be approved)

Kamble, Abhitodhan Baburao, since January 2017 (tentatively working on 'Nation and Nationalism in Tilak's Thought'; synopsis yet to be approved)

**Masters Thesis Advisor – 5** (all for M.A. History offered by Centre for South and Central Asian Studies (including Historical Studies), Central University of Punjab)

- Donal Thomas, *Gardens of India: Under the Mughals and the British*, submitted June 2017.
- Vilayat Ali, *Comparative Study of the Political Thoughts of Two Historians of Medieval India: Ziauddin Barani (1285-1357) and Abul Fazl (1551-1602)*, submitted June 2017
- Anil Kumar, *Rural Society in Rajasthan during the Later Medieval Period*, submitted June 2017
- Pankaj Kumar, *Arya Samaj in British Punjab with special reference of Caste and Education*, submitted June 2017
- Mohd Raqeeb, *Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah's Participation in Jammu & Kashmir Politics*, submitted June 2017

### Course Instructor – Graduate/Masters

- *South Asian History and Politics; Government and Politics of South and Central Asia* for **MPhil/Phd Coursework at Central University of Punjab**
- *Mughal India, Society and Culture of Medieval India, Principles of History; World History; Ancient World; Polity, Society and Economy: Mughal Period (1526-1757); Indian Nationalism; Society and Culture in 19<sup>th</sup> Century India; Mass Movements during the British Period; and,*

*History of Dalits (Ancient to Contemporary Period)*; for **M.A. History at Central University of Punjab**.

### Course Instructor – Undergraduate

- *Reading Mughal India*, Department of **Asian Studies**, The **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Spring 2015
- *World History, to 1500*, Department of **History, University of Arizona**, Summer Session II 2012, Summer Session II 2011, Winter Session 2011
- *World History, since 1500*, Department of **History, University of Arizona**, Winter Session 2011
- *Modern Europe*, Department of **Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi**, July 2005 - March 2006.
- *Modern India*, Department of **Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi**, February 2005 – March 2005.

### Teaching Assistant, Writing Tutor & Grader

**Africana Studies Program, University of Arizona**      Fall 2013 *The Africana Experience*

Department of **History, University of Arizona** for 9 semesters from Spring 2007 to Fall 2012, for *World History, to 1500*, *World History, since 1500*, *What is Politics?* and *Western Civilisation*.

**Writing Tutor**, Department of History, University of Arizona, Spring 2013

### SCHOLARLY and OTHER PRESENTATIONS/SPEECHES (underline indicates event/panel I organised; asterisk indicates invited lecture)

- “The Subject and World Literature: Literary and Historical Reportage of Aurangzeb's Accession (1658), c.1670-c.1730,” for *World Literature: Postcolonial Perspectives*, Departments of English, and Germanic & Romance Studies, University of Delhi, March 15-17, 2018.
- Part of **Round Table Discussion on 'New Questions and Approaches for Historians of South Asia'**, **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem (Mount Scopus Campus), May 23, 2017 (with Gyan Pandey, Ruby Lal, Yigal Bronner and Rotem Geva).
- “The Evolution of Hindi Literary Traditions in late-Seventeenth Century Deccan,” for the conference *Maratha-Mughal Relations Through North-South Historical Linkage* on occasion of the ‘350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Visit of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Agra’ at Department of History and Culture, **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra** (UP) in association with Dept of History, **Bhimrao Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad**; **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**; and, **Aurangabad Historical Society**, February 19-21, 2017.
- \* “Evolution of Persian History-writing from Akbar's reign to Aurangzeb's Reign,” at the Centre for **Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**, September 21, 2016.
- “The Present Memory of Mehar Singh's Adventures with the British Indian and the Indian National Army,” for “*The Indian Predicament: South Asia in WWII*,” at The **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, June 5-6, 2016, as part of the **European Research Council** funded project *Judging Histories*.
- \* “Narratives of a War of Succession for the Mughal Throne,” Department of **Asian Studies, University of Haifa**, May 16, 2016.

- “The bases of description and analysis of the religious sects in the *Dabistan-i mazahib*,” as part of the workshop “*Developments in in the Islamic World, c.1600-c.1800*,” Department of **Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, May 27-30, 2016.
- \* “The *Vachanika Rathor Ratansinghri*: A Rajput View of the Contest Between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh,” Department of **History, University of Delhi**, February 10, 2016.
- \* “History of *Rai/Raya*: Persian Culture and the Making of an Autochthonous Indian Title, c.1000-c.2000,” **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**, Delhi, September 30, 2015. <http://nehrumemorial.nic.in/en/digital-archives/62-seminar/detail/1272-81-dr-vikas-rathee-28-9-15.html?tmpl=component> (audio)
- \* “History of *Rai/Raya*: Persian Culture and the Making of an Autochthonous Indian Title, c.1000-c.2000,” Department of **Asian Studies**, The **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, June 3, 2015.
- “Religion and Politics in the pre-Islamic Hindu past of Indo-Persian *tawarikh*: The case of the *Khulasat al-tawarikh*” for “Persianate Studies: A Conceptual Inquiry,” Yale Program in **Iranian Studies, Yale University**, New Haven CT, May 9-11, 2014.
- “Hodgson’s ‘Islamicate’ and the Knowledge of Indian Society and Culture in Persian Language Works by Authors of Indian Origin” at the workshop “Reconsidering the Non-Muslim Other: Internal and External Religious Differentiation”, part of the on-going project “Being Muslim,” Department of **Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University**, Nashville TN, Sept 23-26, 2013.
- “The ‘*Amal-i Salih* of Muhammad Salih Kamboh: A Shah Jahani Historian’s Treatment of Aurangzeb’s Enthronement,” for the panel “Rethinking the Alamgiri Regime, 1658-1707,” 42<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Conference for South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI**, October 17-20, 2013. *organised panel*
- “Sujan Rai Bhandari’s *Khulasat-u-tawarikh*: A Hindu Narrative of A Mughal War of Succession,” for the panel “Accessing Notions of Communities through South Asian Literary Texts, c.1550-c.1800,” the Annual Conference of **Association of Asian Studies**, San Diego CA, March 21, 2013. *organised panel*
- “The *Vachanika Rathor Ratansinghri*: A late-Seventeenth Century Account of the War of Succession Amongst the Sons of Shah Jahan” at the **12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Early Modern Literature of North India, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies**, Shimla, Aug 5-8, 2012.
- “Visiting Syncretism and Secularism through the *Bitak* of Laldas” at the workshop titled “Conceptualising Caste and Religion Prior to Colonialism in South Asia,” **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi**. July 28, 2012. *organised conference*
- “The Laldas *Bitak*: Conceptualising Mahamati Pran-nath’s Attempts to Bring Spiritual Awakening to Aurangzeb and Chhatarsal Bundela” at the workshop “Cosmopolitanism in the Early Modern World: The Case of South Asia (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries): Sources, Itineraries, Language,” **Centre d’Etudes de l’Inde et de l’Asie du Sud, CNRS, EHESS**, Paris. May 24-25, 2012.
- “Fani Kashmiri’s Search for the utopian ideals of *bahar* (spring) and *dust* (friend) in the Dystopic *Padshahi* of Aurangzeb” at “History and Culture of Friendship in Precolonial South Asia,” **Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia. May 2-4, 2011.

### SERVICE to DISCIPLINE

- Peer-reviewer, *Archive Journal* (<http://www.archivejournal.net/>)

### SERVICE to UNIVERSITY, HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM, INDUSTRY, etc

- **Discipline Co-ordinator** for History, Member Core Team, Teaching Learning Centre, Centre for Excellence for Curriculum and Pedagogy, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching Scheme (**PMMMNMTT**) of Ministry of Human Resources & Development, Central University of Punjab
- Incharge, **University Museum**, Central University of Punjab, Sept 2017 – now
- **Presiding Officer**, Punjab State Legislative Assembly Elections 2017, for **Election Commission** of India
- Designed the **Central Universities Common Entrance Test – CUCET** for M.A. History (2017)
- Member, **Interview Panel, PhD** Entrance Exam, Centre for South & Central Asian Studies, Central University of Punjab

### OUTREACH

- Volunteer Judge, **National History Day**, Regional Competition, Tucson (AZ), March 2, 2013.
- Invited commentator to the news and analysis show **The X Factor** on the TV channel **NDTV 24\*7**. The show was on the issue of caste-based affirmative action in India. May 2006.

### MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE and OTHER

- 2017-now                      Member, Punjab History Congress
- 2008-2009                    Secretary, History Graduate Association, University of Arizona
- 2004-05                      Secretary, History Association, Centre of Historical Studies, JNU
- 2002-03                      Student-Faculty Co-ordinator, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU
- Member, Group of Early Modern Studies, University of Arizona  
<http://www.ic.arizona.edu/ic/mcbride/gems/gems.htm>, accessed July 31, 2013)
- Past Member, American Institute of Indian Studies
- Past Member, Association of Asian Studies (of North America)
- Past Member, American Historical Association
- Founding Member, Students Campaign for Claim on Nation**, a pro-affirmative action student initiative (2006) based in JNU, Delhi ([http://claimonnation.blogspot.com/2006\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://claimonnation.blogspot.com/2006_05_01_archive.html), accessed July 31, 2013).
- Consultant, “Heritage Itineraries in the Himalayas,” White Magic Adventure (Pvt.) Ltd., Delhi  
[www.whitemagicadventure.com](http://www.whitemagicadventure.com)
- Summer 2006                Research Assistant, Earthcare Films (Pvt) Ltd, New Delhi
- July – Sept 2002            Research Assistant, Aureole Publications (Pvt) Ltd., Delhi; I had to liaise with copyright-holders of historical images required in the production of a coffee-table history of India.

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